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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,688	06/23/2003	Kuok Ling	1782-US	7419

7590 03/10/2004

Legal Department
Teradyne, Inc.
321 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02118

EXAMINER

COX, CASSANDRA F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2816

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/601,688	Applicant(s) LING ET AL.	
	Examiner Cassandra Cox	Art Unit 2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/23/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 12 of claim 5 replace the phrase "load circuitry" with --means for programmably varying the DC bias level--. There is no antecedent basis for the "load circuitry". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 11 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nguyen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,600,338).

In reference to claim 11, Nguyen discloses in Figure 6 and column 6, line 51 through column 8, line 7 a method of changing the duty cycle of a differential signal, the differential signal having a first signal component and a complement signal component (see column 7, lines 14-23), each of the signal components having initial high and low signal levels and respective DC bias levels, the method including the steps: modifying the DC bias level of one of the signal components to a desired level, the modified signal component cooperating with the other signal component to form a modified differential

signal (this is seen to be done by elements 160, 162, 164, 166, 172, 174, see column 7, lines 32-59); and restoring the initial high and low signals (this is seen to be accomplished when the signals OU and OU* are amplified, see column 7, lines 60-65).

In reference to claim 13, Nguyen discloses in column 6, lines 53-55 that the modifying step includes: buffering the differential signal with a differential buffer (160) having a differential output (DI, DI*); and loading the differential output to form the modified differential signal (see column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 9).

In reference to claim 14, Nguyen also discloses in column 7, lines 60-65 that the restoring step includes: differentially amplifying the modified differential signal.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-10 are allowed.
5. Claim 12 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 12 would be allowable because the closest prior art of record fails to disclose a circuit as shown in Figure 3 wherein the modifying step includes changing the DC bias level of one of the signal components until the average value of one component substantially equals the average value of the other component (see specification page 6, line 20 through page 7, line 1) in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-10 are allowed because the closest prior art of record fails to disclose a circuit as shown in Figure 3 wherein the duty cycle correction circuit includes programmable load circuitry (50); and a differential gain amplifier (60) coupled to the first differential output (46, 48) and disposed downstream of the load circuitry (50) in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

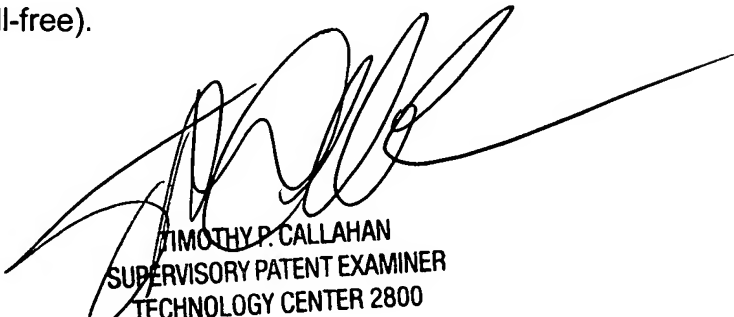
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cassandra Cox whose telephone number is 571-272-1741. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM and on alternate Fridays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CC
March 5, 2004



TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800